

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A topical composition comprising:
at least about 5.0% (w/v) ~~pre-treated~~ ascorbic acid;
non-toxic zinc salt; and
water, wherein the composition has a pH of 3.5 to 4.1 ~~and does not have any~~
~~chemical stabilizers~~.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition has a pH of about 3.7 to about 4.0.

Claim 4 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising an anti-inflammatory compound.

Claim 5 (original): The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound includes sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound.

Claim 6 (original): The composition of claim 5, wherein the sulfur-containing anti-inflammatory compound is selected from the group consisting of cystine, cysteine, N-acetyl cysteine, glutathione, cysteamine, S-methylcysteine, methionine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (original): The composition of claim 4, wherein the anti-inflammatory compound includes aminosugar.

Claim 8 (original): The composition of claim 7, wherein the aminosugar includes glucosamine, mannosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, galactosamine, glucosamine-6-phosphate, N-acetylglucosamine, N-acetylmannosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (original): The composition of claim 1, wherein the water is selected from the group consisting of distilled water, deionized water, distilled deionized water and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The composition of claim 1, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is present in an amount ranging from~~further comprising~~ about 0.5% to about 5% (w/v) ~~of a non-toxic zinc salt.~~

Claim 12 (original): The composition of claim 11, wherein the non-toxic zinc salt is zinc sulfate.

Claim 13 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising a tyrosine compound selected from the group consisting of tyrosine, N-acetyl-tyrosine, tyrosine ethyl ester hydrochloride, tyrosine phosphate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (original): The composition of claim 13, comprising about 1 to about 10% (w/v) of the tyrosine compound.

Claim 15 (original): The composition of claim 1, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes glycerol, propylene__glycol, sorbitol, hydroxypropylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

Claim 17 (original): The composition of claim 15, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier includes alkylene glycol, hydroxyalkylcellulose or a mixture thereof.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A topical composition comprising:
an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) pre-treated ascorbic acid,
a non-toxic zinc salt, and having a pH of 3.5 to 4.1, ~~and not having any chemical stabilizers.~~

Claim 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising a stimulant of protein synthesis.

Claim 22 (original): The composition of claim 21, wherein the stimulant of protein synthesis is a tyrosine compound.

Claim 23 (original): The composition of claim 18, further comprising a precursor of melanin synthesis.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The composition of claim 18, comprising about 15% to about 25% (w/v) ascorbic acid.

Claim 25 (original): The composition of claim 18, wherein the topical composition is an aqueous solution, a serum, a lotion, an ointment, a cream, or a gel.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A topical composition comprising:
an aqueous solution including at least about 5.0% (w/v) pre-treated ascorbic acid,
having a pH of 3.5 to 4.1, ~~and not having any chemical stabilizers~~;
a non-toxic zinc salt; and
a tyrosine compound.